

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (original): A master information carrier for magnetic transfer comprising a substrate having an irregularity pattern representing information to be transferred to a slave medium and a magnetic layer formed on the irregularity pattern on the substrate, wherein the improvement comprises that

formula  $-0.004 \leq (t - d)/d \leq 0.1$  is satisfied wherein  $d$  represents the depth of the recessed portions of the irregularity pattern and  $t$  represents the thickness of the magnetic layer formed on the recessed portions, and

the magnetic layer formed on the protruding portion of the irregularity pattern and the magnetic layer formed on the recessed portions of the irregularity pattern are connected with each other.

2. (original): A master information carrier as defined in claim 1 in which  
 $-0.004 \leq (t - d)/d \leq 0$ .

3. (original): A master information carrier as defined in claim 1 in which the depth  $d$  of the recessed portions of the substrate of the master information carrier is in the range of 50 nm to 800 nm.

4. (original): A master information carrier as defined in claim 3 in which the depth  $d$  of the recessed portions of the substrate of the master information carrier is in the range of 100 nm to 600 nm.

5. (original): A master information carrier as defined in claim 1 in which the substrate is formed of material selected from the group consisting of nickel, silicon, aluminum, alloys, and synthetic resin.

6. (original): A master information carrier as defined in claim 1 in which the magnetic layer is formed of material selected from the group consisting of Co, Co alloys, Fe, Fe alloys, Ni and Ni alloys.

7. (original): A master information carrier as defined in claim 6 in which the magnetic layer is formed of FeCo or FeCoNi.

8. (original): A master information carrier as defined in claim 1 in which formula  $0.01 \leq \delta / t < 0.5$  is satisfied wherein  $\delta$  represents the thickness of the magnetic layer of the side wall connecting the magnetic layer on the protruding portions and the magnetic layer on the recessed portions and  $t$  represents the thickness of the magnetic layer formed on the recessed portions.

9. (original): A master information carrier as defined in claim 8 in which  $\underline{\delta}$  and  $\underline{t}$  satisfy formula  $0.02 \leq \underline{\delta} / \underline{t} < 0.3$ .

10. (new): A master information carrier comprising:  
a substrate with an irregularity pattern disposed thereon wherein the irregularity pattern comprises alternating recessed and protrusion portions; and  
a magnetic layer disposed on top of the irregularity pattern,  
wherein the depth of the recessed portions of the irregularity pattern is represented by  $\underline{d}$  and a thickness of the magnetic layer formed on the recessed portions is represented by  $\underline{t}$  and  $-0.004 \leq (t - d)/d \leq 0.1$ .

11. (new): A master information carrier as recited in claim 10, wherein said magnetic layer comprises a connecting portion connecting the magnetic layer formed on the protruding portions of the irregularity pattern and the magnetic layer formed on the recessed portions of the irregularity pattern.

12. (new): A master information carrier as recited in claim 11, wherein the connecting portion has a thickness represented by  $\delta$  and  $\delta/t$  is greater than or equal to 0.01.

13. (new): A master information carrier as recited in claim 11, wherein  $0.01 \leq \delta / t < 0.5$ .

14. (new): A master information carrier as recited in claim 11, wherein  $0.02 \leq \delta / t < 0.3$ .

15. (new): A master information carrier as recited in claim 10, wherein if  $t$  is larger than  $d$ , then the thickness  $\delta$  is defined as a distance between points O and P, wherein further, point P is defined by the intersection of a line representing an extension of a side surface of the protrusion portion and a line representing an extension of an upper surface of the magnetic layer within the recessed portion, and point O is defined by the intersection of the line representing the extension of the upper surface of the magnetic layer within the recessed portion and a side surface of the magnetic layer on the protrusion portion.